

1 What is claimed is:

- 2 1. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system
3 comprising:
4 a) at least two media storage mediums, each of said storage
5 mediums at least containing a particular media selection;
6 b) at least two media players structured to selectively
7 deliver said media selection to a user from a corresponding
8 one of said media storage mediums;
9 c) each of said media players including a control assembly
10 structured to selectively control and regulate delivery of
11 said media selection to the user;
12 d) at least one of said media players being selectively
13 designatable as a slave unit;
14 e) a master control assembly operatively associated with said
15 media players;
16 f) a connectivity assembly structured to establish a
17 communicative link at least between said slave unit and
18 said master control assembly;
19 g) said master control assembly structured to receive
20 synchronization data from each of said media players; and
21 h) said master control assembly structured to simultaneously
22 and uniformly control said delivery of said media selection
23 by said media players.
24 2. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
25 in claim 1 wherein said control assembly of one of said

- 1 media players defines said master control assembly.
- 2 3. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
3 in claim 1 including a plurality of said media players
4 communicatively associated with at least said master
5 control assembly via said connectivity assembly.
- 6 4. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
7 in claim 3 wherein said control assemblies of a plurality
8 of said media players may selectively define said master
9 control assembly.
- 10 5. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
11 in claim 3 wherein only one of said control assemblies of
12 said plurality of media players may define said master
13 control assembly at one time.
- 14 6. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
15 in claim 1 including a plurality of said media players
16 designated as said slave units.
- 17 7. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
18 in claim 6 wherein said master control assembly is
19 structured to provide selective control authority over all
20 of said slave units to a select one of said slave units.
- 21 8. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
22 in claim 1 wherein said media storage mediums include
23 digital storage mediums.
- 24 9. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
25 in claim 8 wherein said digital storage mediums include any

1 digital storage medium containing standard playback
2 encoding.

3 10. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
4 in claim 1 including a plurality of said media players
5 designated as said slave units and each including said
6 storage medium with said media selection.

7 11. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
8 in claim 1 wherein said connectivity assembly includes a
9 computerized network connection.

10 12. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
11 in claim 1 wherein each of said media players includes said
12 connectivity assembly structured to establish a
13 communicative link with a computerized network.

14 13. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
15 in claim 1 further comprising a messaging assembly
16 operatively associated with each of said media players,
17 said messaging assembly structured to permit selective
18 messaging communication to users of said media players.

19 14. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
20 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly is structured
21 to facilitate said selective messaging communication
22 initiated by an operator of said master control assembly.

23 15. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
24 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly is structured
25 to facilitate selective messaging communication initiated

- 1 by users of said media players.
- 2 16. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
3 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a
4 messaging interface operatively associated therewith and
5 structured to receive a message for communication to at
6 least one of said media players.
- 7 17. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
8 in claim 16 wherein each of said media players includes
9 said messaging interface.
- 10 18. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
11 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly is structured
12 to permit selective communication of a message to at least
13 a select one of said media players.
- 14 19. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
15 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a
16 communication shell associated with a delivery of a message
17 to said user of said media player.
- 18 20. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
19 in claim 19 wherein said communication shell is structured
20 to deliver promotional materials to said user in
21 association with said message.
- 22 21. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
23 in claim 20 wherein said communication shell includes a
24 messaging display structured to be displayed on a monitor
25 associated with said media player, said messaging display

1 including said promotional materials and said message.

2 22. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
3 in claim 19 wherein said communication shell includes at
4 least one interactive link, said messaging assembly
5 including a messaging interface structured to permit
6 selective activation of said interactive link by a user.

7 23. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
8 in claim 22 wherein said interactive link is structured to
9 initiate delivery of additional materials to said user when
10 activated.

11 24. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
12 in claim 22 further comprising a master processor assembly
13 communicatively associated with said media players and
14 structured to receive activation information associated
15 with user activation of said interactive link from said
16 messaging assembly of a particular media player.

17 25. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
18 in claim 24 including a plurality of said interactive
19 links, each of said interactive links representing a user
20 response to a query.

21 26. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
22 in claim 24 wherein said master processor assembly is
23 structured to receive and process said activation
24 information from a plurality of said media players.

25 27. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited

1 in claim 26 wherein said master processor assembly is
2 responsive to said activation assembly from said plurality
3 of media players and is structured to communicate
4 instructions to said master control assembly in connection
5 therewith.

6 28. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
7 in claim 1 further comprising a communication shell
8 structured to deliver promotional materials to said user in
9 association with said media selection.

10 29. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
11 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a text
12 messaging assembly structured to communicate a message
13 visibly utilizing a monitor associated with said delivery
14 of said media selection.

15 30. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
16 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes an
17 audio messaging assembly structured to communicate a
18 message audibly utilizing an audio system associated with
19 said media player.

20 31. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
21 in claim 13 wherein said messaging assembly includes a
22 video messaging assembly structured to communicate a
23 message visibly utilizing a monitor associated with said
24 delivery of said media selection.

25 32. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited

1 in claim 1 further comprising a communication shell
2 structured to deliver promotional materials to said user in
3 association with said media selection.

4 33. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
5 in claim 1 wherein said synchronization data includes a
6 title of said media selection.

7 34. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
8 in claim 1 wherein said synchronization data includes a
9 location designator associated said media selection.

10 35. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
11 in claim 34 wherein said location designator includes a
12 time code of said media selection.

13 36. An interactive, multi-user media delivery system as recited
14 in claim 34 wherein said location designator includes a
15 track number of said media selection.

16 37. To deliver a media selection from a media storage medium,
17 an enhanced media player comprising:

18 an input assembly structured to receive the media storage
19 medium;

20 an output assembly structured to facilitate delivery of
21 the media selection to the user;

22 a delivery assembly, said delivery assembly including a
23 media decoder and a control assembly;

24 said media decoder structured to deliver the media
25 selection from said storage medium via said output assembly;

1 said control assembly structured to control a delivery of
2 said media selection by said media decoder;

3 a connectivity assembly structured to at least temporarily,
4 communicatively associate said delivery assembly with a remote
5 master control assembly; and

6 said delivery assembly being structured to at least
7 temporarily permit the remote master control assembly to control
8 said delivery of said media selection by said media decoder.

9 38. An enhanced media player as recited in claim 37 wherein
10 said deliver assembly is structured to communicate
11 synchronization data related to the media selection to said
12 master control assembly.

13 39. An enhanced media player as recited in claim 37 further
14 comprising a messaging assembly structured to permit
15 selective messaging communication to and from a user of the
16 media player.

17 40. An enhanced media player as recited in claim 39 wherein
18 said messaging assembly is structured to deliver a message
19 to the user in connection with said delivery of said media
20 selection.

21 41. An enhanced media player as recited in claim 39 further
22 comprising a messaging interface structured to receive a
23 message for remote communication utilizing said
24 connectivity assembly.

25 42. To deliver a media selection from a media storage medium,

1 an enhanced media player comprising:
2 an input assembly structured to receive the media storage
3 medium;
4 an output assembly structured to facilitate delivery of
5 the media selection to the user;
6 a delivery assembly, said delivery assembly including a
7 media decoder and a control assembly;
8 said media decoder structured to deliver the media
9 selection from said storage medium via said output assembly;
10 said control assembly structured to control a delivery of
11 said media selection by said media decoder;
12 a connectivity assembly structured to at least temporarily,
13 communicatively associate said delivery assembly with a remote
14 master control assembly; and
15 a messaging assembly structured to permit selective
16 messaging communication to and from a user of the media player
17 utilizing said connectivity assembly.